

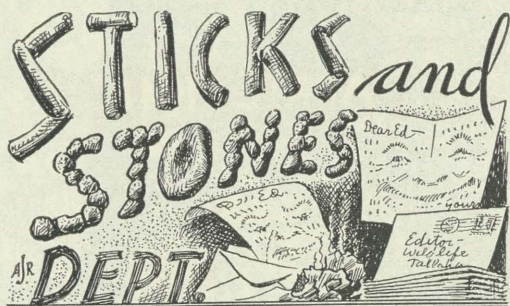
Florida **WILDLIFE**



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

APRIL 1948

Florida's Big Game
By COLEMAN NEWMAN



VOL. 1, NO. 11

Florida
WILDLIFE

APRIL, 1948

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME
AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

For the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection,
of Our Game and Fish

FLORIDA'S POLLUTION PROBLEM

Dear Sir:

I was particularly interested in the Pollution article that appeared in the February FLORIDA WILDLIFE. This subject concerns me considerably because we are fighting it tooth and nail in Connecticut.

In this State, we have reached a virtual stalemate in fighting pollution. Adequate and not at all unreasonable laws were passed in 1925 but remain unenforceable because of the pressure exerted on public opinion by the Manufacturers' Association, Chambers of Commerce, and civic clubs.

By demanding the correct type of sewage disposal plants in your comparatively new Florida towns you can avoid many future headaches. All the pressure you can bring to bear NOW will pay big dividends later. I cannot emphasize this too strongly. We have learned the lesson the hard way and Florida can benefit by our experiences.

The Miami River was the worst place I saw during my recent visit in Central and Southern Florida. The river is comparable to some of our fairly bad streams—not our worst by a long shot. The fact remains that Florida is faced with pollution problems and now is the time to strike at them. Your problem is easier than ours because of your comparatively level terrain, the youth of your towns and cities, and manufacturing that is still in the small-scale class.

Samuel R. MacDonald,
State Representative,
Wallingford, Conn.

HELPS OUR TOURISTS

Dear Sir:

I wish to tell you how much I have enjoyed the last two issues of FLORIDA WILDLIFE. It is a splendid way of making the people of Florida acquainted with their own state and I, as a tourist, feel that it has helped me appreciate some of your problems and many of your advantages. I only wish that many other states would follow your lead.

Helen S. Becker—Clearwater
(Continued Page 21)

The Cover

*A bit of spring fishing
on the banks of the
Ochlockonee River.*

—Picture by
Charles H. Anderson

Published monthly by the
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Tallahassee, Florida

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A New Definition For Conservation

THE average, run-of-the-mill American has always been a simple talking guy with a distinct preference for two-syllable words. Conversationally, he generally steers clear of lengthy parts of speech and souped-up phrases. Yet if you look around today, you'll find a certain four-syllable word creeping more and more into the nation's vocabulary. You'll hear it freely bandied about, even in localities where one-syllable terms are the rule rather than the exception.

The word is "conservation," a slightly cumbersome noun that has been kicking around for a good many years. Why then its sudden boom in popularity? The answer is fairly simple. Today more and more citizens are beginning to look with alarm at our dwindling natural resources. With Mother Nature's capital reserves dipping lower and lower, the people at last realize we are facing a very unhealthy situation—one that is likely to take a lot of doctoring. Conservation, they have been told, is the recognized treatment for such a malady. So without much thought one way or the other they have accepted the term as the universal antonym for waste, destruction and misuse.

There is no doubt about it, the word itself has caught on. Unfortunately its meaning hasn't. The blame for this can be laid partly to Webster. In defining conservation he took the easy way out. Take a peek in the household dictionary and here's what you'll probably find:

CONSERVATION—The act of preserving or saving, etc.

Technically Mr. Webster may be right. But as applied to a renewable resource, his definition barely reaches first base. Professional conservationists recognized this long ago, and replaced the Webster definition with one of their own. As they see it conservation is the **wise utilization** of our natural resources. Strict saving is only part of the story. In fact the would-be conservationist who takes his dictionary definition too liter-

ally is likely to defeat his own purpose and benefit no one. All over the country technicians and wise conservationists are swiftly coming to view our wildlife as a crop—and a money crop at that. As such it has to receive pretty much the same treatment other crops do. It must be watched, cultivated and even harvested if we expect to get good results. In other words it must be managed. Actually management would probably be a better synonym for conservation than either preservation or saving. If we supply good management, the wildlife itself will take care of the preservation angle.

Good management means more than just protecting. It means providing food, providing proper habitat, insuring growth, and regulating harvests. Still, to many a well-meaning conservationist protection, and protection only, is the panacea for all our wildlife ills. Yet suppose this same individual planted a hay crop, then built a fence around it and let it go at that. Suppose he steadfastly refused to cut it, turn it under or let it be grazed. What would happen? In the first place it would serve no useful purpose, and in the second place the whole crop would eventually peter out. On the other hand if he overgrazed it or cut it every time the crop reached mower-blade height he would still come out at the little end of the horn. The same principle applies to our game and fish crops. And the answer, wise utilization, falls halfway between the two extremes.

Wildlife conservation isn't all iron-bound preserving. It is utilizing what we have today so there will be more tomorrow. The sooner we understand that, the faster we will be moving toward true conservation.

Bill Matus
EDITOR.



Florida's

BIG GAME

A St. Vincent's giant Sambar deer shown beside an ordinary Virginia white-tail.

Florida may not have moose or caribou, but it has the Sambar—the most exotic species of big game in North America.

A FEW years ago when I was doing my game managing in Texas, if anyone had suggested that Florida had a species of big game that overshadowed the prize elk and mule deer of the West, I would have marked him down as a congenial liar. Nevertheless it's true. Florida boasts a species of big game that is not only big, but also the most exotic species in North America. It is the famous Sambar deer of far away India.

Not too many people know it but there are an estimated four dozen of these prize creatures currently roaming the wilds of St. Vincent's Island, a 14,000-acre hump of sand and scrub in the Apalachicola Bay off the coast of Franklin County.

Bull-like and powerful, the Sambar makes the ordinary Florida white-tail look wizened by comparison. Where the average white-tail tips the scales at 150 to 200 pounds the full-grown sambar usually weighs around 600 to 700 pounds. Physically, it bears a close resemblance to only one species of game animal—the sambar deer. One cracker huntsman graphically described it as "looking like a cross between a brahma bull and a billy-goat." Actually the sambar is a distant relative of our western elk, but

generally speaking their resemblance is as distant as their relationship. Where the elk is a rich dun in color, the sambar is a rusty red. The sambar is also deeper-chested and generally more powerfully-built than his western cousin.

Unlike the white-tail and other species of deer, the sambar's antlers do not run to multiple points. The white-tail's antlers may boast two, six, eight or some similar number of prongs, but on the sambar they are always the same—a long beam with a fork at the end and a short prong at the base. When full grown the sambar sports a heavy, dark mane faintly resembling that of a buffalo. All in all he is a rather strange and exotic ap-

By COLEMAN NEWMAN

pearing animal—and a challenge to any hunter.

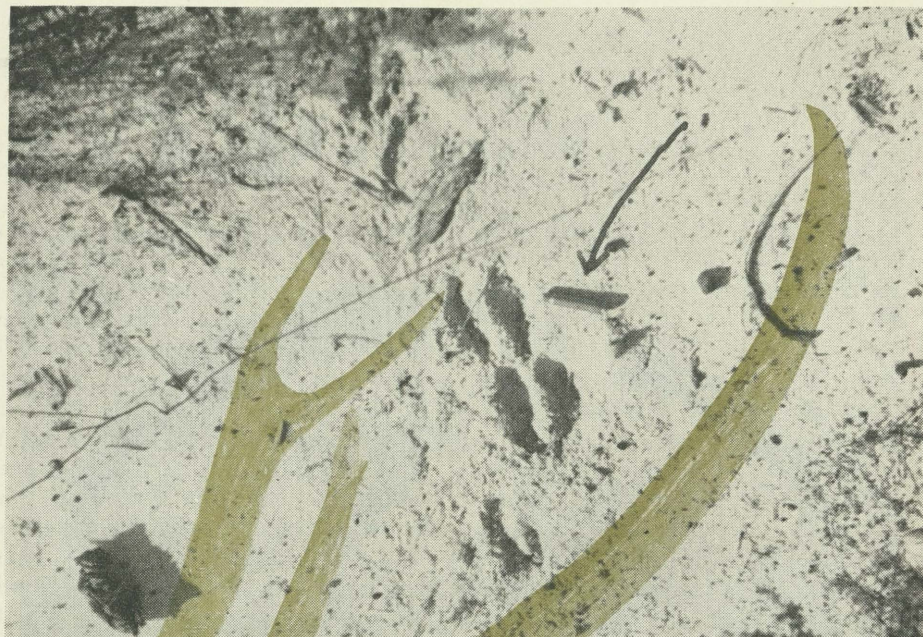
Hard to hunt and difficult to study the St. Vincent sambar has grown up surrounded by legend. There have been literally hundreds of conflicting stories about his size, mannerisms, and behavior. The origin of the Florida "mystery deer" however is a matter of record.

BACK in the fall of 1908 a wealthy gentleman named Dr. R. V. Pierce, who had bought the entire isle of St. Vincent for a private hunting retreat, decided to inject a bit of foreign flavor into the game population. The sambar for years had been one of the prize game animals of southern Asia, and Dr. Pierce saw no reason why it couldn't be introduced in Florida. A few years before the Duke of Bedford and famous circus impresario Carl Hagenback had supplied the New York Zoo with its first sambar, so Dr. Pierce began negotiations with zoo officials. Out of his efforts came four deer—three does and a buck—for release on the island.

The doctor, who was one of Florida's first genuine conservationists, determined to give the alien sambar every chance for survival. For years he kept the island closely protected, allowing no hunting at all. And when hunting was resumed, he was careful to see that only a limited number of sambar bucks were removed each season.

Under such vigilance the little band of deer thrived happily, and by 1940 it was estimated the sambar population on St. Vincent's had gone well into the hundreds. During the war, however, an epidemic of illegal hunting broke out and the island's supply dwindled to the discouraging low of 50 or less. The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission estimated that about 120 of the huge deer have been harvested legally; the illegal kills probably number far more.

Still owned by the Pierce estate, the island has continued to be closed to public hunting. However, hunting rights have been leased to a number of Florida sportsmen, and dozens of others are clamoring for a chance at one of the 600-pound gamesters. Though the sambar is a thrilling



This five-inch Sambar deer track is approximately twice as big as an ordinary deer track.

quarry, hunting for it on St. Vincent's is no Sunday school picnic.

In the first place the island is four miles from the mainland, so a boat is necessary. In the second place if you fail to make arrangements for the resident keeper to meet you at the landing you face a rugged four-mile walk to the clubhouse. The entire island was formed by sands washed up from the Gulf of Mexico, and the surface is still broken by scores of soft sand ridges running the length of the strip. This, coupled with a heavy growth of scrub oak, cabbage palmetto and pine, makes motor transportation limited and foot travel laborious at best. Nevertheless it's worth it all to get a shot at a haughty sambar buck. Yours truly has never been lucky enough to get in on a St. Vincent hunt, but J. R. Moody, Jr. of Vernon, has. To give some idea of the thrill that goes with sambar-hunting, here's his account of a successful island expedition:

"Early one morning I helped the main hunting party get off to an early start—but I didn't go with them because it was one of those days that I didn't feel much like starting out.

"But a couple of hours later I started to feel 'hunting fever' striking me and I routed out Gus Dunn, of Chipley, who'd slept late, and we started toward the hammock section together. We started hunting just about two

miles from camp right on the edge of a wide marsh.

"Gus and I hadn't walked into the hammock more than 200 yards before I spotted signs of a big buck sambar. I trailed him for nearly half-a-mile and jumped him about 50 yards ahead of me right on the edge of the hammock.

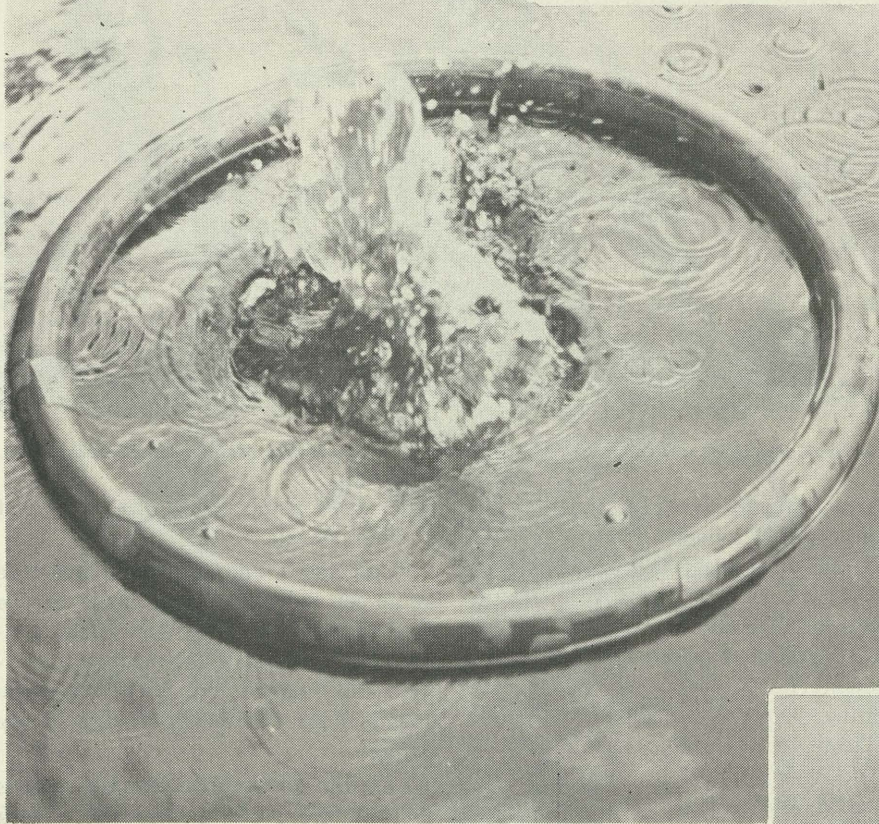
"At the instant he started across the hammock, I shot him once with a Winchester pump using a shotgun slug—but he never wavered or tried to change his course.

"You can imagine how disgusted I was with my shooting about that time. I was figuring that I had registered a clean miss at such a short distance. However, I didn't give up, and decided to trail the big sambar a little ways just to see if I could find any sign of blood. Sure enough, I hadn't walked over 50 yards until I found the place where he had started pouring out blood. From the way he had been bleeding I was certain that that shotgun slug had gone clear through him because he'd squirted blood out to both sides every time he'd made a jump.

"From the amount of blood we found, Gus and I felt certain that it would be just a matter of time until we'd find the big buck deer. We'd followed the trail about a quarter of

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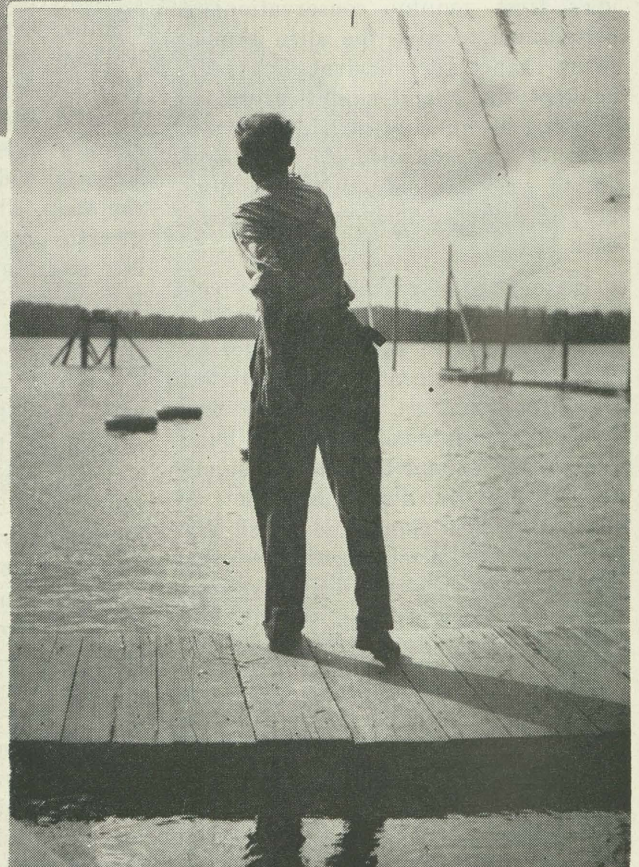
LET'S GO



Perfect bulls-eye splashes the target. At the right, a skisher lets go with a long one.

A new fascinating game designed to improve your casting accuracy and distance is springing up throughout the nation

by BILL SNYDER



HAS your bait-casting accuracy gone berserk lately? Do you breathlessly aim your favorite plug at a likely patch of lily pads and wind up by hooking yourself in the seat of the pants instead? Or, has your casting technique reached such a sorry point that even your best friends offer excuses of a "previous engagement" when you invite them to join you on a trip to their favorite fishing haunt?

Even though you have been faced with some of the nightmares just mentioned—don't blow your top and break up your pet rod or tear the innards out of the shining reel that Aunt Susie gave you last Christmas. You can emerge from your current bait-casting slump and again start dropping your favorite lure in the

SKISHING!

water when and where you desire. What's more, your former accuracy will return to you in a manner almost as simple as learning to play a musical saw in three easy lessons!

Skish is the answer to your problem. Without a doubt, you can snap back to good fishing form with—Skish.

In case you are one of the uninitiated, Skish is a bait and fly casting game that was created in 1939 and has consistently done more toward improving the angler's casting technique than all other means combined. The nicest thing about playing the game and at the same time definitely improving your accuracy lies in the fact that you won't have to buy a single bit of new equipment or spend a lot of money. Your old rod and reel, a nine-pound test line, and a worn-out 30-inch bicycle tire are all that

is necessary to start you off to ultimate success.

Throughout the north, thousands of fishermen, beginners and veterans alike, are taking their Skish games seriously simply because they realize that their chances of getting the limit of big ones on the next fishing trip depend largely on how well they can cast. Meanwhile, the game is gaining fast popularity here in the South, and many Florida sportsmen's clubs are now laying out Skish ranges as one of the most important portions of their clubhouse plans. Skish, they reason, is as important to fishermen as Skeet is to the army of hunters.

Skish enthusiasts explain that the game convincingly overcomes the common misconception that successful bait-casting consists mainly in having a strong right arm and the clumsy ability to sling a plug in any old

fashion just as long as it gets out of the boat or off shore. It's dead-eye accuracy that goes the longest way toward filling the stringer, they'll tell you, and rightfully too!

Then there's another important problem that Skish players claim can be solved by consistent playing of the game—the bugaboo of attempting to use totally unbalanced fishing equipment. Not long ago, Walter Willman, former world's champion distance and accuracy caster, named unbalanced fishing gear as the No. 1 holdback for beginners in the casting field.

"The days when sporting goods salesmen unloaded rods, reels and lines on uninitiated fishermen without giving the slightest interest to properly balancing the equipment, have definitely ended" Willman told us. "Selling fishing equipment these

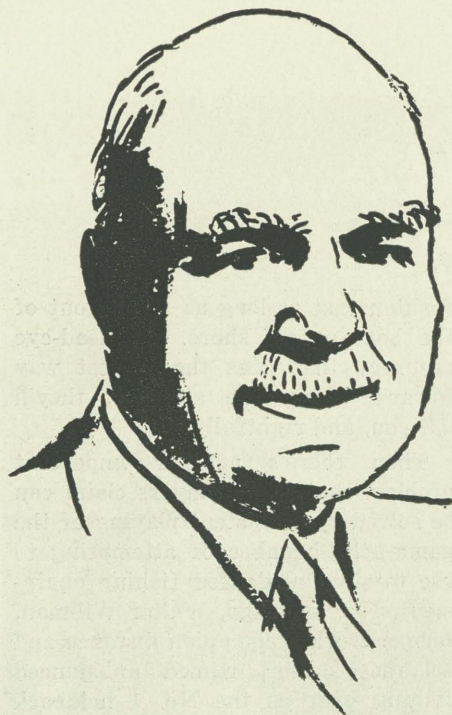
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Skish can be a woman's game too.



A group of practicing skishers pause to watch one of the feminine members make a try for a bulls-eye.



A BUSINESS VIEW of Conservation

by

JAMES FORD BELL

IT IS safe to say that there are definite limitations to the application of business management principles to a problem as saturated with controversy and public interest as is game and fish conservation. On the other hand, the objectives are clearly identical. The natural resources of game and fish, like business, must be managed in the interests of all the people.

Sportsmen tend to forget that hunting and fishing as we know them are not vested privileges, but rather an endowed heritage peculiar to America. In the old world these pleasures originally were reserved for the nobility and landed gentry, and ownership of game centered in the crown or the individual estate. In general this policy continues there today. In America, thanks to the bounty of resources and guarantees written into our basic law, game and fish are controlled by the state in its sovereign capacity and managed for all its citizens.

The point to be emphasized is that this common ownership implies a special obligation as well as a priv-

ilege. Too often Americans shirk their individual responsibility for maintaining our game and fish supply. This responsibility is best discharged by providing money adequate to support efficient management.

To operate a business efficiently, certain standard procedures must be followed, among them:

1. Accounting and inventory control.
2. Establishment of production (or sales) quotas.
3. Capitalization, or procurement of finances.
4. Agreement on long-term operating policy.

Admittedly these are only a few of the many considerations that must enter into the management of a business. But they are fundamental. Let us consider, briefly, their application to the management of a complex natural resource such as our game and fish supply.

Accounting and Inventory Control. Before game and fish can be managed, we must know what we have. Whatever the cost of obtaining this information, it must be secured accurately and at timely intervals. Upon it must be based such decisions as the dates and volume of harvest and the countless other regulations looking to wise usage. Our accounting must be standardized on

a pattern that will win the ready acceptance and confidence of all citizens.

Establishment of Production Quotas. What do we lack, and how much of it? This can be determined from the inventory. Deficiencies must be underlined and widely publicized. Action must follow promptly to build up inventories. This production should be budgeted so that management will know what it will have to work with in the future.

Capitalization of Finances. Whatever it costs to maintain our resources on a level to meet all needs comes under this heading. First of all, we must see to it that hunting and fishing license revenues, upon which game and fish depend for support in this state, are not diverted to other uses. If the present fees are inadequate, we must dig down into our pockets and produce enough money to do the job. It may cost you \$25 for an auto license in a given year, yet two adult residents can fish twelve months on a fee of \$1.50. The expense of game and fish is the obligation we must assume for enjoying it. There is no alternative.

Long-term Operating Policy. This really combines the first three principles. It is to our advantage that our long-range policy of manage-

The author, James Ford Bell, is a General Mills, Inc., executive and one of the foremost industrialists in the midwest. This frank appraisal of wildlife conservation first appeared in the CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER, official publication of the Minnesota Department of Conservation.

ment be written for all to see, and that it be revised from time to time according to the dictates of necessity. In this way we can better "sell" the plan and the finances needed to carry it. If all the goals are not attained immediately, they will be projected in orderly fashion.

There is no broad and smooth highway to a land teeming with game and fish. To manage a resource that is annually tapped by millions of individuals is a gigantic task, particularly when many states have less than one dollar to spend each year in management for each hunter and fisherman who stands to benefit!

One important task of our publicity and information should be to point up the necessity for dedicating more money to the task before us. The needs of education, particularly in the adult field, should not be overlooked. The people must be kept informed through constant repetition of the program as it unfolds. But more important, we must meet the immediate needs of the problem, and in full. For years, it appears, we have been "winking" at several pressing conditions. To solve any or all of them will cost money. We must be prepared to pay the price or stand the consequences of a game and fish supply facing slow exhaustion before ever-increasing hunting and fishing pressure.

Our good friend Izaak Walton was endowed with unusual vision. Three hundred years ago he no doubt had in mind the thousands of self-appointed "experts" on all things game and fish when he wrote, "That which is everybody's business is nobody's business." Game and fish threatens to wither away to "nobody's business" or to no business at all if we fail to agree on a production program supported by a long-range plan with adequate finances. The sooner this basic thinking is accepted, the better.

Whether a sportsman is a conservationist depends on his state of mind. If he decides to be one—and it goes without saying that every sportsman should be—he can carry out his desire by obeying the laws, by encouraging compliance from others, and by cooperating with his conservation department at all times. These rules constitute a minimum personal conservation creed.

The St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club netted \$1,516 from admissions to their recent annual sportsman's banquet.

Uncle Ed and the POLE VAULTING FISH



Henry, the big bass at Wakulla Springs, "vaults" gracefully over the pole 30 feet below the surface.

HENRY is a pole vaulting fish, according to Uncle Ed, patriarchal colored guide at Wakulla Springs, Fla. An ichthyologist could tell Uncle Ed in a couple of five-dollar words what makes Henry do as he does. Even a common garden variety of fisherman might give an explanation. But it would be like telling a child there is no Santa Claus.

Away back in the early days, long before Uncle Ed was born, the Indians and a few white men engaged in gathering turpentine saw the first Henry vault a pole in the depths of Wakulla Springs, twenty miles south of Tallahassee. And, as far as Uncle Ed knows, there's been a pole vaulting fish in the spring ever since.

"Seems like," Uncle Ed says, "big Henry teaches little Henry to jump the pole come the time when big Henry get ready to die off. Then, little Henry grow up to a big Henry and he larns another little Henry where at to jump."

It was Uncle Ed himself who gave Henry his name. In the old days Uncle Ed and the rest of the colored folks around used to meet the white folks at the spring and "tote" them over the water in an old bateau for a quarter. He saw a big bass lope over a pole deep in the water every time he stopped the boat at a certain point for the folks to look through the glass bottom. Uncle Ed named him Henry and would call to him when he reached the spot over the pole to come out and "do yo' stuff for the folkses." And Henry would obey.

After Wakulla Springs devel-

oped into one of Florida's leading resort attractions a great understanding grew between the old Negro guide and Henry. Today Henry will not perform for anyone else.

A few years ago some prankish boys lowered a drag and stole Henry's favorite pole. There was great consternation and much anxiety among the local population for fear that Henry might not accept a new one. A substitute was lowered but fell in a spot at least five feet higher than the old one. Evidently that was enough to throw Henry off his stride for he refused to appear.

Uncle Ed went out alone in his boat and called to Henry, using all his persuasive tactics plus a little extra inducement in the form of bread balls, but Henry sulked in the shadowy depths. For five straight hours patient Uncle Ed called and wheedled to no avail. Upon the sixth hour Uncle Ed let out a shout. Henry was circling the pole. A great roar went up from the people who had gathered at the water's edge. Three times Henry circled before he made his silvery lunge for the new pole. Rising swiftly, turning on his side, he neatly cleared the limb and fell away on the other side in a long, graceful glide. Never again has Henry hesitated or refused to vault the pole.

Of course, an ichthyologist could tell Uncle Ed in a couple of five-dollar words what makes Henry do as he does, but as long as Uncle Ed pilots a glass-bottom boat over Wakulla Springs, Henry is a pole-vaulting fish.

—Neal Swalm.

They're **BITING** Here

A large number of Florida fishermen are getting a lot of thrills these days out of a brand new sport—trolling for shad on the St. Johns River. Aside from the fun they are having, most of the anglers report that they are carrying plenty of shad home for breakfast. Those who have been most successful, recommend using a plastic line and leader and a Reflecto No. 1. Place a buckshot on the leader for weight and use either a fly rod and reel or an ordinary casting rod and reel. For real excitement, a fly rod is best, they say. Set your kicker at slow speed and keep your bait deep. Shad trolling has been exceptionally successful along the river from Blue Springs to the north end of Lake Harney. Let us know how you make out after you've experimented with this new sport.



PINE BARREN CREEK

Pine Barren Creek in Escambia county is recommended for black bass fishing this month. Your chances for taking home the day's bag limit are good if you wet your line in the stream any place from the Palafax highway to the mouth of the creek. Hawaiian Wigglers have been producing results in the early morning and late afternoon. Gilbert Ward, of Molino, caught eight black beauties that ranged from 12 to 16 inches.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Warmouth bass, speckled perch and bream are hitting the bait in Six Mile, Trout, and Julington Creeks. Live minnows or worms are recommended. Try your luck early in the morning for bream and late afternoon for perch.



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Try the canals west of Fellsmere if you are hungry for bream or speckled perch. Bass fishing is excellent in the white sand ponds off Vero Grade. For canal fishing, try the edges or the mouth of the canal. Live shiners, Dalton Specials and Hawaiian Wigglers have been doing business in a big way. Do your fishing in the mid-morning or late evening.



MYAKKA RIVER

In Manatee county, bass and blue bream are hitting along the Myakka river and all other

sizeable streams. Try worms or fly fishing for bream and live bait if you are a bass fisherman. You'll have your best luck fishing late in the day. Frank Blunt, of Bradenton, registered several good catches while using fly tackle and live bait.



SUWANNEE COUNTY

Try any of Suwannee County's lakes and you are pretty certain to carry home the limit of bass or speckled perch. Live minnows are recommended. John Rowland, using a Lucky 13 bait, landed a 10¼-pound bass in Peacock Lake and Nicky Isacrius captured a 12¼-pounder in White Lake.



LITTLE LAKE GEORGE

Many mighty bass are striking in Volusia county's Little Lake George in the early morning and late afternoon. Recent catches were registered by R. W. Trenson, Houston, Texas, 10 pounds, 4 ounces; H. F. Murchie, Jacksonville, 11 pounds 4 ounces; and Ben Briggers, Philadelphia, 10 pounds, 4 ounces.



LAKE COUNTY

Crappie and bass fishermen are doing business in a big way at Lake Griffin and Lake Harris. Pick any spot that looks good to you and go to work. Live bait is recommended. Try your luck any time of day.



FENHOLLOWAY RIVER

You'll get your limit of red breast warmouth if you use earthworms for bait and wet your line in the Fenholloway river or any of the lakes or road ditches in Taylor county. Fishing on the south moon is recommended.



LAKE OKEECHOBEE

You'll connect with plenty of speckled perch and black bass in Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River early mornings and late evenings. Wet your lines in the pepper grass at the edge of the lake and in swift-running water in the river. Use live bait for perch. Take your choice of the underwater Dillinger, Florida Shiner, Johnson Spoon or Uncle Josh Frog Skin for bass.

SKISH

(Continued from Page 7)

days is a job for specialists who are qualified by actual angling experience to balance an outfit properly before they start a beginner on his future fishing career."

Willman's point is borne out by seasoned Skish players who maintain that regular attendance on Skish ranges offers the most important opportunity to compare methods and equipment and eventually results in educating the anglers on what particular equipment balances best for their individual type of fishing. In many instances, this opportunity alone has saved the novice many hard earned dollars that might have been foolishly blown in on completely and hopelessly unbalanced equipment.

For most of us who have to work for a living, our chances for taking frequent fishing trips come mighty few and far between. Unfortunately, in the past most of us have done no casting what-so-ever during our long periods of fishing inactivity with the result that we unconsciously lost the proper "knack" of hitting the mark eight times out of ten. With the advent of Skish, it is our own fault if we suddenly lose the proper stroke, timing, and accuracy that pleased our vanity during our two-weeks fishing trip last summer. Those who have accepted Skish as a means of increasing their skill with a rod and reel, find it a great fill-in between fishing trips.

Whether there is a casting club or not in your community, everyone can play the game. Old 30-inch bicycle tires thrown on the lawn will serve as targets. However, Skish is an organized game backed by definite rules made by the National Skish Board.

Nevertheless, these rules are lenient and are made merely to control the game to the point where every one has a fair chance in competition. At this moment, the National Skish Board is taking an active interest in sponsoring tournaments throughout America in an effort to create better casters as well as better fishermen. As a result, hundreds of Conservation Clubs and Sportsmen's organizations, from coast to coast, are working closely with the Board in the formation of

casting clubs among their members. In many instances, club officials are visiting various tournaments to get first hand information in order to bring their own casting groups to the front in the new national sport. Whether every sport fisherman takes an active interest in competitive casting or not is of little consequence. The main purpose of Skish is to educate all bait and fly casters in the art of better casting. In doing this, thousands of anglers eventually have taken on competitive casting as a hobby, and by doing so have mastered the game to the highest degree. It is from these groups that many take as active part in national competition.

I'd Rather be a Gander

The following theme was written by a Texas schoolboy and, while it is not recommended for inclusion in a hunter's Bible, it's worth reading:

"Geese is a low heavy bird which is most meat and feathers. Geese can't sing much on account of the dampness of the water. He ain't got no between-his-toes and he's got a little balloon in his stummick to keep him from sinking. Some geese when they are big has curls on their tails and is called ganders. Ganders don't have to sit and hatch, but just eat and loaf around and go swimming. If I was a geese I'd rather be a gander."—**Texas Game and Fish.**

In the game of Skish, only a perfect or bull's eye counts. The targets are 30-inch rings or discs (old bicycle tires will serve the purpose). Any casting outfit used for actual fishing is all that is needed, the only requisites being that the line shall be not less than nine-pound test; the caster must use a five-eighths ounce practice plug; and the reel handle must be at least two and one-eighth inches in over-all length. Regulation fishing reels are all equipped with handles over this required length. Those who have extremely fast reels will find them an advantage for accuracy casting.

There is nothing special about the rods used by top-flight Skish bait-casters. Many prefer a light six-foot rod in either bamboo or steel, while others who have attained top-brackets in the game swear by the five and one-half foot lengths. Rods in these lengths are usually preferred for accuracy because the additional action permits a smoother cast. Short rods naturally require more arm motion which is much more tiring. Experience has taught us that the longer and more flexible rods start the reel with less jerk which tends to eliminate many a cuss-provoking back-lash. This important item alone makes for better casting on lake or stream where every lick counts and good casting plays the top role.

In setting up club ranges, 10 targets (old bicycle tires) are usually employed. The targets can be placed on the ground or in a body of water if such a location is available. Ordinarily the targets are scattered at random with the furthest not more than 80 feet and the nearest not less than 70 feet from the casting point. At sportsmen's clubs, 10 casting boxes, each four feet square, are provided. The casters rotate casting at targets and take two casts at each one. Each target has its own casting point, thus permitting 10 players to cast simultaneously at 10 different targets.

Striking the edge or in the center of a target is a perfect bull's eye. In casting on a club range, a player, taking two casts at each of the 10 targets, is credited with six points for the first perfect cast, and four points for the second at each of the targets. One hundred, of course is a perfect score.

Full plans and instructions for laying out Skish ranges are available free of charge at Better Fishing Inc., 509 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Meanwhile disgruntled anglers stand a swell chance of becoming the ace-casters in their home town if they'll use their old fishing rig, a couple of worn-out bicycle tires and a lot of perseverance. We repeat, becoming an expert is just as easy as learning to play a musical saw in three easy lessons—just Skish into it!

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Conserving, Protecting, Restoring and
In the Interest of the Sportsman



James N. Conley, president of the Orange County Sportsmen's Association, who is vitally interested in the current organization of a Junior Conservation Corps at Orlando.

Levy Conservation Club Plans Predator Contest

Sportsmen's clubs all over the state conduct fishing contests, some conduct casting contests, and a few even conduct lying contests but the Levy County Wildlife Conservation Club has decided to try out something new—a predator control contest.

At a meeting in Gulf Hammock late in March officials of the club completed plans for a three-month contest beginning April 1 and open to all residents of Levy County.

A point value has been established for six of the worst predatory animals, and the person with the most points at the end of the contest will be awarded a handsome .22 calibre automatic rifle. Second prize will be a single shot bolt action rifle.

Point values are as follows: wildcats, 10 points; fox, 10; blue darter, 10; skunk, 5; opossum, 5; crows, 5; and stray house cats 5.

W. F. Anderson, Bronson, president of the club, said checking stations would be established throughout the county where contestants could turn in their kills and receive credit.

Orange County Club Organizes Junior Conservation Corps

While some of the clubs in the state are still talking about doing something constructive for the young sportsmen, the Orange County Sportsmen's Association is one of a number that have actually organized a youth club. It is called the Junior Conservation Corps and Jim Conley, wide-awake president of the Orange County Sportsmen's Association says the youngsters are "really going to town" on the idea. The junior club is open for membership to boys aged 8 to 16, and already the membership is growing by leaps and bounds. Membership blanks have been printed and, upon applying, the boys are required to read the conservation pledge, which is printed on the blanks, before signing.

The Junior Conservation Corps will have its own officers and the members will make their own plans and stand on their own feet, under the supervision and guidance of the seniors, of course. Recreational and educational movies will be shown at the meetings and it is planned to have a series of talks by well known conservationists. At the initial meeting several weeks ago Ken Beagles, exhibition shooter from Remington Arms Company put on a trick shooting exhibition for the boys and they "ate it up." To the boy, they were all ears and eyes during Beagles' talk on safety while handling firearms.

"Our outstanding project this year is to put over the Junior Conservation Corps," Conley announced. "Love of the outdoors is born in every boy and it takes only a little encouragement and guidance to make this love grow into the makings of a true sportsman."

The Florida Wildlife Federation is definitely in favor of the Junior Clubs. Ralph Cooksey, president, has announced that they will gladly offer assistance and cooperation to senior clubs in the state in their efforts to organize junior clubs.

Porcupines have been known to nibble on dynamite for the small amount of salt it contains.

OFFICERS

President.....Ralph Cooksey, St. Petersburg
Treasurer.....E. A. Markham, Gulfport
Recording Secretary.....George A. Speer, Sanford

Questions to

1. Will you oppose all legislation pertaining to and fresh water fish under the regulations of the
2. Will you actively support all legislation pertaining to life and fresh water fish by the Game and Fresh
3. Will you sponsor and actively support a resident \$1.00 for all persons between the ages of 15 and 65?
4. Will you actively support reasonable legislative Commission in their efforts in the restoration and
5. Do you favor and will you support a constitution, conservation and regulation of our state commission?
6. FOR CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR—Will you Education, sponsor legislation which will require taught in our grade schools on wildlife, forestry, sources?



Ken Beagles, Remington Arms' top-flight exhibition America recently, when he gave an exciting demonstration to members of Junior Conservation Corps, the worthwhile County Sportsmen's Association.

WILDLIFE FEDERATION

For Men and Lovers of the Outdoors

DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

District 1	A. W. Cullis, Clearwater
District 2	S. R. Sanders, Lake City
District 4	Bill Wellman, West Palm Beach
District 5	Porter Lansing, Sanford

The Candidates

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h Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission?

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h Water Fish Commission?

ant home county fresh water fishing license of

c. sponsored by the Game and Fresh Water Fish
a conservation of our wildlife and fresh water fish?

itional amendment placing the management, res-
water resources under a constitutionally created

qu, as Governor and a member of the Board of
oper textbooks to be furnished and the subjects
il and water conservation and other natural re-



tion shooter, above, offered plenty of thrills for Young
stration before this group of Orlando youngsters, all
organization now being sponsored by the Orange

Federation Queries State Candidates On Conservation Stand

Under the direction of President Ralph G. Cooksey, the Florida Wildlife Federation is ready to demand that our next governor, attorney general, state senators and representatives take an active interest in the conservation and restoration of Florida's wildlife.

The decision to make every effort to select conservation-minded public officials at the coming election was made several weeks ago at Orlando where a special two-day Federation meeting was held.

"Hunting and fishing comprise one of Florida's biggest industries—if not the biggest," President Cooksey pointed out to the assembled members. "I feel that it is up to the Florida Wildlife Federation to do every thing in its power to preserve and enlarge our coveted natural resources. One of the most efficient ways of seeing that the resources are constantly protected is to select conservation-minded public office holders including the governor, our attorney general, state senators and representatives.

"We have prepared a list of questions that I personally feel should be fully answered by the candidates for the high offices I have mentioned. If it is the will of the membership of this Federation, these questions will be submitted to each candidate and, by his answers we will be able to determine if they are willing to fight for our objectives once they have been elected to office," Cooksey explained.

Unanimously, the representatives at the special meeting voted to submit the list of pertinent questions to all candidates. (The full list appears elsewhere on this page.)

"I am gratified with the action the Federation has taken," Cooksey said later. "The proper answers to the questions will be our guide when we go to the polls this year. It will be the most efficient way to select men for public office who will take an active and determined interest in the future of the State's priceless wildlife."



Billy Fulford, secretary of the Orange County Sportsmen's Association.

Lealman Club Members Ready Fishing Heaven

Members of the Lealman Rod and Gun Club, at St. Petersburg, are sharing their time and money these days in an effort to open up Saw Grass Lake as a future fishing heaven. Work was started recently in clearing a canal to the lake and it is freely predicted that the "granddaddy" of all Florida black bass will be found once the almost virgin fishing ground is opened to club members.

As soon as the canal is cleared, picnic shelters and a huge barbecue pit will be erected near the lake. Eventually, the members will clear the weeds from the main lake and plans already are being made to erect a clubhouse and a dock for the exclusive use of club members.

Permission to clear the canal and erect the picnic facilities was granted by L. P. Sellers, owner of the property and a member of the Lealman Club.

Saw Grass Lake has long been a known fisherman's paradise in the St. Petersburg area. However, but few persons have been able to fish there in many years due to its inaccessibility. The lake is surrounded by an almost impenetrable swamp, with bottomless muck soil underneath.



This is part of the more than 100,000 persons who visited the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's wildlife exhibit at the Central Florida Exposition in Orlando. This exhibit and another at the Florida Sportsmen's Exposition at Eustis were supervised by C. J. Finley, Fifth District chief wildlife officer.

100,000 Visitors See Commission's Exhibit At Orlando Show

Now that the season for Florida's springtime expositions and fairs has ended—attendance records reveal that nearly 1,000,000 persons viewed the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's pretentious wildlife exhibits that were set up at the most important sectional annual showings.

Proof of the public's growing interest in the state's wildlife was solidly maintained at the last two important fairs—the Central Florida Exposition at Orlando, Feb. 23-28, and the Second Annual Florida Sportsmen's Exposition at Eustis, March 15-20.

C. J. Finley, chief wildlife officer in the Fifth District, who supervised the Commission's exhibits at the two events, disclosed that more than 100,000 persons visited the showing of fish and animals at Orlando and an additional 40,000 "saw the show" at Eustis. Figures reveal that more than a half-million persons viewed the Commission's biggest exhibit of the year at the Tampa State Fair during February, while an additional estimated 150,000 attended

smaller exhibits at four or five fairs in various sections of the State.

The Orlando showing of hundreds of interesting game fish and animals was the second largest exhibit offered by the Commission this spring and succeeded in winning the praise of everyone who saw it. Interested visitors crowded close to the animal cages and glass fish tanks from the time the fair opened until closing night. In addition, thousands of pieces of special literature pointing out the importance of wildlife conservation and preservation were distributed.

All in all, the fair season proved of such high value that plans are already being made to set up even bigger exhibits next year at a greater number of fairs and expositions, Director Ben C. Morgan has revealed.

Coleman Newman, biologist of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, recently discussed the importance of deer and turkey restoration when he addressed members of the Levy County Wildlife Conservation Club at Williston.

Horses have the largest eyes of all land animals.

Nine Persons Killed, Many Injured, During 1947 Hunting Season

Nine persons were killed and 18 injured in hunting accidents during the 1947-48 season, Director Ben C. Morgan, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, disclosed last month.


Of those killed, five were drowned; one died from a rattlesnake bite; and three were shot. Seventeen of the 18 injuries resulted from gunshot, Morgan said. Six of the injured nimrods, he added, were mistakenly fired on by other hunters.

Those fatally injured were: W. I. Henderson, his wife and child, and Arthur Rawlings, all of Tampa, who drowned when their boat capsized in Lake Tiger; James Hammond, of Winter Haven, who drowned when his boat overturned in Lake Kissimmee; thirteen-year-old Marion B. Heidgerken, of St. Joseph, who was instantly killed when his shotgun accidentally discharged after he leaned it against a log; Alfred Sweat, Jr., of Belleview, who died after being struck by a bullet fired by a companion; Meeker Collins, 15, St. Augustine, who was accidentally shot by a hunting companion in a boat on North River in St. Johns county; and Kirby Huff, St. Petersburg business executive, who died in a Clearwater hospital after being struck by a six-foot rattlesnake while hunting near Largo.

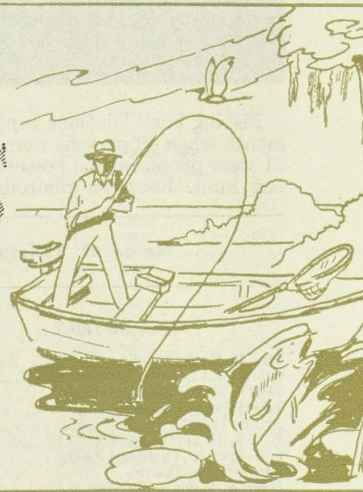
During the 1946-47 hunting season, Morgan said, four persons were killed and 21 injured.



This string of 16 fat black bass was taken by Constable George A. Kelsey and his wife, of Oviedo, when they went fishing on the St. Johns River between Geneva and Mims.



from SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS



Bill Wellman has been elected president of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club, succeeding R. W. Milburn, who automatically became a member of the board of directors. Wellman, a charter member and prexy of the club in 1946, is one of the state's most active sportsmen in addition to serving as district vice-president for the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Other officers of the club are: Capt. Harry Lowery, first vice-president; Ben Crowinshield, second vice-president; Draper Babcock, treasurer; and Jack Scudder, secretary and club manager. Club directors include: Ed Weston, Capt. Ken Black, J. B. Venters, Roy Tanner, Earl Diemer, Julian Rowley and John Rybovich.

At a recent meeting of the Volusia Wildlife Association, at DeLand, Ted Strawn was directed to head hyacinth eradication by spraying Harris and Easdin Creeks. Gene Fisher was named chairman of a committee to restock turkey in Volusia county, and Larry Fagan was appointed head of the club's fish restocking program. Joe Fleishel will direct the quail project.

During the meeting, the results of conservation practices in Pennsylvania were cited as a guide to Florida by Prof. Curtis Lowry of Stetson University. Lowry said that in a 30-year period the Keystone State moved from an area almost devoid of game and fish until it now ranks among the leaders in the supplies of both.

Under the direction of President Paul Funk, the St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club is heading into a busy year. Funk has invented a new fashion for handling the problems of "grippers" and has designated the last meeting of each month as "Gripe Night." At these special meetings, all members will be urged to present local wildlife problems that have been bothering them.

Walt Willman, former national long distance and precision bait caster, has agreed to instruct casting classes for the members. In addition, Mrs. Willman, a champion in her own right, will instruct the women members.

Hernando county women and Boy Scouts are being offered free membership in the ranks of the Hernando County Sportsman's Club as the result of a new plan accepted unanimously by the members at a recent meeting.

More than 100 members attended the meeting and fish-fry and elected B. R. Saxon to head the organization this year. He succeeds J. C. Emerson, Jr.

Other officers named were: Roy Snow, vice-president; and Judge E. S. MacKenzie, secretary-treasurer.

J. E. Albritton, Arcadia, and John Swift, Clearwater, attended the meeting as representatives of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Good public relations were established recently by the Gulfport Fish and Game Association when all Gulfport residents were invited to attend an open-house meeting at community hall. Colored movies of the State's fish and game reserves, and various sportsmen's activities were presented in an effort to stress the importance of wildlife conservation.

Members of the Hillsborough County Wildlife Association will have one of the swankiest clubhouses in the state within the near future. The club has procured a 10-year lease on a 20 acre tract of land located near Tampa on the Hillsborough River. Clubhouse plans call for an electrically equipped kitchen, a dance floor and special rooms for guest entertainment. In addition, a bass rearing pool will be built and a small bore rifle range will be erected. W. D. Lamotte is the club's secretary-treasurer.

GAME and FISH VIOLATIONS

Fishing law violations topped the list of 192 court convictions last month when 69 persons were found guilty of fishing without a license; 21 were penalized for possessing undersize bass; and 15 exceeded the bag limit. Fourteen nimrods were fined for hunting out of season

and one hunter paid a \$100 fine for hunting without a license. There were 61 convictions in the Fourth District; 42 in the Second District; 35 in the First District; 30 in the Fifth District; and 24 in the Third District.

Name of Violator	Violation	Fine	County	Arresting Officer
FIRST DISTRICT				
Sara M. Hock, Arcadia	Fishing without license	\$21.53	Charlotte	L. F. Lowe
George H. Chebotte, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	25.00*	Charlotte	L. F. Lowe
Belford Skater, Sparkman	Unplugged gun	20.00	Charlotte	C. D. Crews
Albert Farraby Sparkman	Unplugged gun	20.00	Charlotte	C. D. Crews
Arthur Thomas, Arcadia	Fishing without license	34.41	De Soto	C. D. Crews
Rev. B. D. Smith, Arcadia	Fishing without license	34.41	De Soto	John N. Hardin
J. B. Spooner, Carlstrom Field	Undersized bass	25.00*	De Soto	John N. Hardin
Laurie Gates, Tampa	Possession of gun in breeding area	25.00	Glades	S. B. Snell
Hugh N. Hammer, Tampa	Fishing without license	17.50	Glades	S. B. Snell
Frank Giddens, Plant City	Fishing without license	14.32	Hillsborough	E. P. Campbell
Frank Freshaver, New Jersey	Fishing without license	25.00	Lee	Walter Whiteherd
David Herzog, Alva	Fishing with gig	24.78	Lee	Kenneth Danicls
J. A. Kelly, Zephyrhills	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Carl C. Walker
Alton G. Glover, Tampa	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Roscoe Godwin
Thomas F. Blalock, Tampa	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Carl C. Walker
Lizzie Mae Morgan, Tampa	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Roscoe Godwin
Ralph Guthrie, Tampa	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Carl C. Walker
Noah Bredger, Tampa	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Carl C. Walker
Norman H. Payne, Tampa	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Roscoe Godwin
Donald D. Nutting, Tampa	Fishing without license	25.00*	Pasco	Carl C. Walker
William Brennan, St. Petersburg	Fishing without license	10.00	Pinellas	J. T. Philbin
John Huggins, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	Pinellas	J. T. Philbin
Mammie Lee Huggins, Jacksonville	Fishing without license	15.00	Pinellas	J. T. Philbin
H. E. Pendland, Clearwater	Hunting with gun and light at night	13.75	Pinellas	L. R. Garrison
Floyd Peacock, Dunedin	Hunting with gun and light at night	13.75	Pinellas	L. R. Garrison
Howard Pierce, Ohio	Fishing without license	6.75	Polk	C. E. Collins
Leonard Pierce, Ohio	Fishing without license	6.75	Polk	C. E. Collins
Fred Carpenter, North Carolina	Fishing without license	9.50	Polk	Edward Gill
J. F. Albritton, Brewster	Undersized bass	10.25	Polk	E. S. Summer
Dan F. Wilson, Lake Wales	Hunting with gun and light at night	5.00	Polk	H. O. Whittle
Roosevelt Lowe, Avon Park	Fishing without license	23.38	Polk	C. W. Cribb
Simon Lee Griffin, Wauchula	Undersized bass	18.25	Polk	H. O. Whittle
Jack Greene, Palma Sola	Fishing without license	25.00	Sarasota	L. L. Taylor
S. R. Decker, Connecticut	Fishing without license	25.00	Sarasota	L. L. Taylor
Joseph L. Collins, Bradenton	Undersized bass	25.00	Sarasota	L. L. Taylor
SECOND DISTRICT				
Mary Harring, Lake Butler	Over bag limit of fish	15.00	Union	M. L. Johns
Ethel Jackson, Lake Butler	Over bag limit of fish	15.00	Union	M. L. Johns
Hillman, Hobbs, Brunswick, Georgia	Fishing without license	15.00*	Nassau	L. A. Stokes
Sarah Hobbs, Brunswick, Georgia	Fishing without license	15.00*	Nassau	L. A. Stokes
Thomas E. Waters Brunswick, Georgia	Fishing without license	15.00*	Nassau	L. A. Stokes
M. D. Houston, Jacksonville	Fishing with net	25.00*	Nassau	Carl Jones
Claude Jones, Live Oak	Fishing with wire trap	10.00	Suwannee	D. H. Smith
M. C. Newman, Seville	Exceeding bag limit on fish	100.00*	Nassau	L. A. Stokes
H. M. Porrester, Jacksonville	Fishing with net	25.00*	Nassau	Carl Jones
J. M. Wetzel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Fishing without license	5.00	Levy	J. J. Clary
M. B. McClellan, Valdosta, Georgia	Exceeding bag limit on fish	75.00	Hamilton	D. H. Smith
W. J. Davis, Watertown	Fishing without license	28.09	Gilchrist	Wilton K. Sauls
Jim O. Coleman, Trenton	Fishing with wire trap	23.40	Gilchrist	E. E. Driggers
Ira J. Philpot, Chiefland	Fishing with wire trap	27.17	Gilchrist	George H. Green
N. F. Niddell, Jacksonville	Hunting in game reservation	50.00*	Duval	Max Akins
W. G. Lundy, Jacksonville	Unplugged gun	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
P. A. Browning, Jacksonville	Hunting in game reservation	50.00*	Duval	Max Akins
J. H. McClendon, Jacksonville	Hunting on off-day	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
J. C. Seamons, Jacksonville	Unplugged gun	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
W. F. Hinson, Jacksonville	Hunting without license	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Roscoe Johns, Jacksonville	Hunting on off-day	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Mason Wiggins, Jacksonville	Unplugged gun	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
W. H. Waldron, Jacksonville	Unplugged gun	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Walter Waldron, Jacksonville	Unplugged gun	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Odis Gardner, Jacksonville	Hunting on off-day	10.00	Duval	Max Akins
Hursel Brown, Jacksonville	Hunting without license on off-day	20.00	Duval	Max Akins
Benjamin Horne, Jacksonville	Hunting without license on off-day	20.00	Duval	Max Akins
R. E. DeForge, Jr., Jacksonville	Hunting without license	15.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Charles Hunnicutt, Jacksonville	Hunting without license	15.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Henry D. Jester, Jacksonville	Hunting without license	15.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Ray Strickland, Jacksonville	Hunting in game reservation	25.00*	Duval	Max Akins
Leroy Madriet, Alachua	Exceeding bag limit on fish	22.25	Alachua	William Arline
Curtis L. Dennison, Gainesville	Illegal fishing (striking fish)	19.50	Alachua	William Arline
Ernie Hines, Havana	Possession of coot out of season	5.00	Alachua	Simmons and Arline
Lamar McDaniel, Waycross	Fishing without license	19.13	Alachua	J. W. Simmons
Charlotte Dalton, Fort White	Fishing without license	25.00*	Alachua	G. C. Vaughn
Lillian Frunney, Fort White	Fishing without license	25.00	Alachua	G. C. Vaughn
Henry S. Williams, Gainesville	Unplugged gun	25.00*	Alachua	A. S. McAvan
Will Wright, Lockloosa	Hunting in closed season	25.00*	Alachua	Leslie Pigue
J. C. Hague, Gainesville	Undersized bass	18.25	Alachua	Green and Arline
Hayward Jackson, Gainesville	Illegal fishing (striking fish)	25.00*	Alachua	William Arline
Johnny Richardson, Gainesville	Illegal fishing (striking fish)	25.00*	Alachua	William Arline
THIRD DISTRICT				
Albert Trulock, Macon, Georgia	Undersized bass	30.00*	Wakulla	O. L. Vance
James Edward Capps, Thomasville, Georgia	Undersized bass	25.00	Wakulla	H. C. Pelt
P. P. Greene, Tallahassee	Fishing without license	25.00	Wakulla	O. L. Vance
R. D. Allen, Baker	Fishing with net	4.07	Okaloosa	Bush and Whidden

* Bond forfeited.

† Suspended sentence.

S.D. Sentence deferred.

GAME and FISH VIOLATIONS—(Continued)

Name of Violator	Violation	Fine	County	Arresting Officer
Richard Petty, Baker.	Fishing with net.	4.07	Okaaloosa	Bush and Whidden
George Petty, Baker.	Fishing with net.	4.07	Okaaloosa	Bush and Whidden
Lloyd Allen, Baker.	Fishing with net.	4.07	Okaaloosa	Bush and Whidden
T. J. Farr, Quincy.	Undersized bass.	10.00	Liberty	L. Chester
J. N. Butler, Thomasville.	Fishing with more than one pole.	35.00	Liberty	Lee Duggar
Horace Stevens, Quincy.	Fishing without license.	29.75	Liberty	Lee Duggar
Leamon Cook, Dothan, Alabama.	Hunting without license.	100.00	Liberty	Lee Duggar
Nixon Cox, Quincy.	Hunting without license.	29.75	Liberty	Lee Duggar
Henry Page, Tallahassee.	Fishing without a license.	20.00	Leon	J. T. Conoly
A. G. Grant, Monticello.	Hunting in closed season.	10.00	Jefferson	W. L. Stelts
Paul Daniels, Campbellton.	Fishing with net.	31.08	Jackson	Joe Sims
Frank Murdock, Malone.	Fishing with net.	34.58	Jackson	Sam Hunter
J. S. DuBois, Enterprise, Alabama.	Fishing with more than one pole.	37.68	Jackson	Sam Hunter
J. W. Ellis, Enterprise, Alabama.	Fishing with more than one pole.	32.93	Jackson	Joe Sims
Leon Oliver, Enterprise, Alabama.	Fishing with more than one pole.	32.93	Jackson	Joe Sims
C. W. Robbins, Port St. Joe.	Undersized bass.	25.00	Gulf	Allen Legrone
Burl R. Williams, Tyndall Field.	Undersized bass.	20.00	Gulf	H. O. Pridgeon
Joe Luten, Quincy.	Hunting out of season.	50.00	Gadsden	Rhodus H. Hill
Robert L. Cannon, Havana.	Undersized bass.	20.00	Gadsden	J. O. Johnson
M. C. Reaves, Wakulla.	Hunting in closed season.	50.00	Franklin	John Elderkin
FOURTH DISTRICT				
Walker Smith, Miami.	Fishing without license.	14.75	Broward	L. P. Harvey
John A. Krut.	Fishing without license.	32.30	Broward	I. R. Giddens
W. L. Munden, Miami.	Undersized bass.	32.30	Broward	L. R. Giddens
John L. Matthews, Fort Lauderdale.	Undersized bass.	32.30	Broward	L. R. Giddens
Lawrence Teague, Homestead.	Undersized bass.	32.00	Broward	John W. May
Peter Hyder, Corney, New York.	Undersized bass.	30.00	Broward	I. R. Giddens
A. G. Sherman, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	32.50	Broward	I. R. Giddens
Clarence Henry McGraw, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	32.50	Broward	I. R. Giddens
Sam D. McKay, Miami.	Fishing without license.	18.50	Broward	John W. May
James James, New York, N. Y.	Fishing without license.	32.00	Broward	John W. May
George Story, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	32.00	Broward	John W. May
Robert R. Morton, Miami.	Shooting on State Road.	28.55	Broward	John W. May
Joan Harris, Miami.	Fishing without license.	16.25	Broward	L. P. Harvey
Julius Budd, Miami.	Fishing without license.	17.00	Broward	L. P. Harvey
L. E. Hause, Hollywood.	Undersized bass.	32.30	Broward	L. P. Harvey
E. B. Carrera, Hollywood.	Fishing without license.	14.50	Broward	L. P. Harvey
R. Richardson, Fort Lauderdale.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	32.90	Broward	L. P. Harvey
Allen Washington, Miami.	Undersized bass.	32.00	Broward	I. R. Giddens
Rose Thomas, Miami.	Fishing without license.	32.00	Broward	I. R. Giddens
James Ecker, West Palm Beach.	Fishing without a license.	26.00*	Martin	J. A. Daughtry
R. S. Stanton, West Palm Beach.	Fishing without a license.	15.00	Martin	J. A. Daughtry
E. F. Brooklin, West Palm Beach.	Fishing without license.	15.00	Martin	J. A. Daughtry
Charles Bell, Miami.	Attempting to sell fresh water fish.	31.00	Dade	John W. May
Charles Parkin, Miami.	Attempting to take blue heron.	10.00	Dade	G. M. Cooper
James Battle, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on bream.	5.00	Dade	John W. May
K. E. Mattox, Miami.	Shooting in State Park.	15.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
Edward L. Pinder, Miami.	Attempting to sell fresh water fish.	33.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
Carey West, Miami.	Attempting to sell fresh water fish.	10.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
B. W. Dyess, Miami.	Attempting to sell fresh water fish.	33.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
James F. Phillips, Miami.	Shooting in State Park.	15.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
Desmon Gooch, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	10.00	Dade	John W. May
J. Robinson, Miami.	Attempting to take blue heron.	10.00	Dade	G. M. Cooper
Harvey Gill, Cutler.	Illegal hunting.	5.00	Dade	G. M. Cooper
Franklin Gill, Cutler.	Illegal hunting.	5.00	Dade	Cooper
William Hoffman, Miami.	Hunting out of season.	16.00	Dade	John W. May
Allen J. Washington, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	5.00	Dade	John W. May
George Story, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	5.00	Dade	John W. May
H. L. Mayo, Coral Gables.	Undersized bass.	32.30	Broward	L. P. Harvey
Johnnie Henderson, Miami.	Fishing without license.	32.30	Broward	L. P. Harvey
Luke Thompson, Hallandale.	Exceeded bag limit on fish.	33.10	Broward	L. P. Harvey
Ben Williams, Hallandale.	Exceeded bag limit on fish.	33.10	Broward	L. P. Harvey
Hazel Pottier, Pompano.	Undersized bass.	32.50	Broward	L. P. Harvey
J. F. Lucas, Opa Locka.	Undersized bass.	33.10	Broward	L. P. Harvey
G. F. Sankey, Miami.	Undersized bass.	33.10	Broward	L. P. Harvey
William Hiltner, Toledo, Ohio.	Fishing without license.	36.63	St. Lucie	Buddy Bass
Herb Wilson, Toledo, Ohio.	Fishing without license.	36.63	St. Lucie	Buddy Bass
J. E. Droudoski, New York, N. Y.	Fishing without license.	35.48	St. Lucie	Buddy Bass
W. M. Goodwin, Fort Pierce.	Fishing without license.	35.36	St. Lucie	Buddy Bass
F. H. Bickel, Fort Pierce.	Fishing without a license.	35.36	St. Lucie	Buddy Bass
John Steffa, Fort Pierce.	Fishing without a license.	35.36	St. Lucie	Buddy Bass
L. R. Strawn, Ohio.	Fishing without license.	22.00	Palm Beach	Vernon W. Hays
O. R. Schwall, West Palm Beach.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	36.00	Palm Beach	Vernon W. Hays
Dr. E. A. Boswell, Tennessee.	Fishing without license.	22.50	Palm Beach	Vernon W. Hays
Edward Allen Youman, Ohio.	Fishing without license.	22.50	Palm Beach	Vernon W. Hays
Hoyt Reece, Miami.	Hunting out of season.	25.00*	Okeechobee	Buddy Bass and E. Hazellief
Allen Harris, Miami.	Exceeding bag limit on fish.	10.00	Dade	John W. May
F. W. Lyon, Miami.	Shooting on State Road.	5.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
William E. Mickers, Miami.	Shooting on State Road.	5.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
L. A. Hartsfield, Miami.	Shooting on State Road.	5.00	Dade	L. E. Bunnell
Clarence Garner, West Palm Beach.	Fishing without license.	20.00*	Martin	J. A. Daughtry
FIFTH DISTRICT				
J. B. Shockey, Deland.	Fishing without license.	15.43	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
Delmus Thomas, Deland.	Fishing without license.	15.43	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
Thomas Lord, Orlando.	Fishing without license.	15.43	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
Almond E. Leslie, Lake Helen.	Fishing without license.	13.68	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
Thomas J. Denham, Cassadaga.	Undersized bass.	13.68	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
James C. Floyd, Cassadaga.	Undersized bass.	13.68	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
C. F. Snyder, Osteen.	Fishing without license.	16.25	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
Bertha Snyder, Osteen.	Fishing without license.	16.25	Volusia	H. L. Lungren
David Yourg, Leesburg.	Fishing without license.	23.59	Volusia	M. L. Rutland
Ben Jones, Leesburg.	Fishing without license.	23.59	Sumter	M. L. Rutland
Archie Barry, Leesburg.	Fishing without license.	23.59	Sumter	M. L. Rutland
Sammie Cheslom, Leesburg.	Fishing without license.	23.59	Sumter	M. L. Rutland
Rosa Lee Brooks, Leesburg.	Fishing without license.	25.72	Sumter	M. L. Rutland

* Bond forfeited

† Suspended sentence

S.D. Sentence deferred

GAME and FISH VIOLATIONS—(Continued)

Name of Violator	Violation	Fine	County	Arresting Officer
Nathan Hudson, Leesburg.....	Fishing without license.....	25.72	Sumter.....	Rutland and Remington
John Henry Hudson, Leesburg.....	Fishing without license.....	25.72	Sumter.....	Rutland and Remington
Randall Morrison, Louisiana.....	Hunting out of season.....	50.00	Sumter.....	Rutland and Remington
Ralph Scott, Winter Haven.....	Fishing without a license.....	23.47	Sumter.....	Rutland and Remington
Helen Kierce, Winter Haven.....	Fishing without license.....	23.47	Sumter.....	Rutland and Remington
Ronald D. Combs, Green Cove Springs.....	Fishing without license.....	20.00	St. Johns.....	Alvin Pacetti
Mrs. W. B. Downs, Green Cove Springs.....	Fishing without license.....	15.00	St. Johns.....	Alvin Pacetti
Willie B. Downs, Green Cove Springs.....	Fishing without license.....	15.00	St. Johns.....	S. C. Collier
Mrs. Gerald J. King, Green Cove Springs.....	Fishing without license.....	15.00	St. Johns.....	S. C. Collier
Jessie W. Allen, Green Cove Springs.....	Fishing without license.....	15.00*	St. Johns.....	S. C. Collier
Beecher Allen, Jacksonville.....	Fishing without license.....	15.00*	St. Johns.....	S. C. Collier
Bruce Middleton, Jacksonville.....	Hunting out of season.....	35.00*	St. Johns.....	S. C. Collier
Nark Chappell, Jacksonville.....	Hunting out of season.....	35.00*	St. Johns.....	S. C. Collier
L. A. Renfro, Avon Park.....	Hunting in breeding area.....	25.00*	Orange.....	J. R. Parker
J. H. Renfro, Avon Park.....	Hunting in breeding ground.....	25.00*	Orange.....	J. R. Parker
W. E. McMillan, Ocala.....	Exceeding bag limit on fish.....	31.75	Marion.....	Seckinger
O. J. Dillard, Astor.....	Hunting in Ocala National Forest.....	25.00	Lake.....	Frank O'Neal

* Bond forfeited

† Suspended sentence

S.D. Sentence deferred

BIG GAME

(Continued from Page 5)

a mile when we found him—deader than a stone.

"The lucky thing about it was that he'd dropped dead pretty close to a road that both of us recognized—otherwise there'd have been no way to get him out of the hammock without cutting him up first. He was the biggest deer either of us had ever seen, and I started kidding Gus by telling him that a fellow really had to know his business when he shot a deer so that he could run to a road before falling dead.

"It took six good men to load him into a station-wagon and his four-quarters dressed out an even 308 pounds. That's remarkable too when you figure that I cut his neck off right at the shoulders so that I could have it mounted. He is the biggest sambar ever killed on the island that I have ever heard of, however, my good friend Judge Ira A. Hutchinson, of Panama City, later killed one that weighed out 306 pounds."

FROM Moody's account it's easy to see why many sportsmen have urged the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to bring the species to the mainland. However, this is impractical for a variety of reasons. In the first place it is never wise game management to attempt to replace your native stock. Secondly, the sambar unlike the white-tail is a heavy grazer. If it were stocked on some rancher's land and began to offer grazing competition for cattle, a troublesome situation could easily develop.

As I said before there are a multitude of stories concerning the habits of the sambar. There are so many it's a little hard to weed the fact from the fiction. For instance there is one school that insists the sambar is vastly overrated as a game animal because the meat is unsavory. I have asked six people how the meat compares with that of our native white-tail deer; three claimed it was very tough and stringy, and three insisted it was far superior to ordinary venison. Since I have never tasted it, I'll have to remain neutral.

Many sportsmen are also convinced that the sambar periodically leaves the island and crosses to the mainland where it interbreeds with the native deer.

The people who know the situation best, however, say it is doubtful if any have ever crossed Apalachicola Bay alive. Nearly every hunting season the game commission receives reports that a cross between the sambar and white-tail has been killed somewhere in West Florida. I have checked several of these both on and off the island, but none appear to be cross-breeds. The antlers are always either definitely sambar or definitely white-tail. On the island both species are quite common, yet there is no evidence of interbreeding. Dr. Lee S. Crandall, general curator of the New York Zoological Society, states that he has never heard of a cross between the two and seriously doubts that it could be accomplished. Dr. Crandall is in charge of the zoo from which our original stock was secured.

THE sambar usually has only one young each year, with the fawn growing unusually fast. On its adopted range in Florida, the deer seems to prefer the fresh water marshes and the immediate adjoining forest cover, which consists of cabbage palmetto, live oak, myrtle and pine. When flushed, it heads for the thickets in a mad plunge with no attempt at stealth. As one hunter said, "it hits the brush like a mad bull."

It feeds largely at night and gives forth a distinctive snort or whistle when its curiosity is aroused. For years these queer night noises lent credence to stories that St. Vincent's was haunted by the ghosts of its Spanish conquerors. As a matter of fact, the historic island itself has given birth to almost as many legends as its alien inhabitants. Technically the arrow-shaped island is a part and parcel of Franklin County. However, if you query some of the ardent historians around Apalachicola they'll tell you "tain't so." The island, they claim, still belongs to Spain by rights. Through some mix-up in the purchase of Florida it seems the island of St. Vincent was not mentioned. Therefore, they insist, it's still Spanish territory.

Regardless of ownership, though, they'll all agree St. Vincent and its sambar deer offer the "big game" sportsman a thrill to be found nowhere else in the South.

Frogs and toads use their eyes to help them swallow. The eyeballs are pulled down, and the food forced on down the throat.



ACCORDIN' to the fishin' stories and pictures that have been arrivin' at our office in Tallahassee, a feller isn't much of a fisherman unless the bass he catches weighs around 13 to 15 pounds. We haven't had any reports so far of any of the boys throwin' back the four and five pounders—but some of my friends are braggin' that they use that size for bait . . . But there's one thing certain, the fish that are being caught these days aren't a darn bit bigger than some of the stories that are goin' the rounds . . . Take for instance, J. B. Wooten, of Madison. One dark night not so long ago he decided to try his luck with a pork rind lure. Three times he missed connectin' with a swell strike—but he swung right hard on the fourth one and landed his prize—a flabbergasted, blinkin' eyed hoot owl . . .

George Winton, another Tampa man, used a large sized Calcutta pole and a 50-pound test line when he went lookin' for somethin' big in the Hillsborough River—what's more he wasn't disappointed. All of a sudden-like, George's line started singin' a tune and he set his star drag up to the limit. In an instant his rod broke and the high test line parted. "Gosh almighty," George puffed, "what in tarnation do you suppose hit my line?" A neighborin' fisherman solved the problem when he pointed his finger at the Tugboat Eva, that was stirrin' up the water and chuggin' merrily down the river. George had hooked right into Eva's stern. . .

If Florida Red Snappers keep gettin' any smarter, I guess it won't be long until they start wearin' store clothes and straw hats. At least, it took Carl Clawson, a winter visitor from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, to land one that was dry-smokin' a cigar—what's more it was one of them 50-cent cigars like you buy at big-town, swanky hotels. It's a fact, the darn fish had swallowed a choice cellophane-wrapped cheroot and there was still a three-inch end stickin' out of his mouth when Clawson caught him—The cigar wasn't lighted. . .

Speakin' of swallowin' things reminds me of an 18-pound catfish that E. G. Bass, of Astatula, caught a couple of weeks ago. When he butchered the big catfish he found—of all things—a full grown duck in the fish's innards . . . We heard of one visitor from Wisconsin who won't be returning home this spring. Mrs. B. R. Saxon, who lives near Brooksville, killed a banded dove last December. Wildlife Officer Tom Kirk sent the band to the Federal Wildlife Service in Washington and learned later that the dove was originally banded at Oshkosh, Wis., the overall town. . .

There was a lot of extra excitement in Miami recently when the Seaboard Airline's crack train, the Sunbeam, rolled into the station. The diesel engine had picked up some kind of critter and a lot of inquisitive bystanders called it everything from a deer or a tame duck to a kitchen sink. However, it took the experts to figure out that the train had killed a five-foot loon, long of legs and neck. . .

Frank Saxon, Julius Batten and Buck Hope, all of Brooksville, went into action after they'd got tired of hearin' stories about a wildcat killin' their neighbors' chickens. The Brooksville poultry crop has been a lot healthier and longer-lived ever since the three killed the cat in the hammock section . . . We know of a deer that will vote for Mrs. C. W. Pusey, operator of the Greater Miami Humane Society, if she ever runs for public office. After being attack by a wildcat, the deer was picked up near Hialeah by a policeman. The animal was taken to the Humane Society's refuge and at last reports was being fed oats, green grass, sugar and milk three times a day by the attractive operator of the society.



James Henry Coleman, of Coleman, couldn't complain about his luck when he went fishing at Lake Panasoffkee. He carried home two bass weighing 10 and 9½ pounds each.

Biologists Warn Against Use of Strong Chemicals

A plea for caution and moderation in the use of insecticides and rodenticides in places where they may injure valuable wildlife resource was voiced by E. R. Kalmbach and J. P. Lindiska, noted biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the recent North American Wildlife conference at St. Louis.

Control operations often go astray, the biologists warned the largest international group of wildlife scientists, sportsmen, and conservationists ever to assemble in the Middle West. They cited instances in which faulty control measures had resulted in effects quite different from those desired by the persons using them.

The wartime development of "super" control chemicals such as DDT and other powerful insecticides and the adaptability of the airplane for their dispersal have multiplied immeasurably the situations in which it now is economically practical to control noxious plant and insect pests, the scientists stated.

E. R. Bronson, of Cocoa, has been appointed wildlife officer and is serving in Brevard county.

More Than 1,000 Exchange Ideas At National Wildlife Conference

Business of vast importance to America's sportsmen was transacted at St. Louis, Mo., last month when the largest group of wildlife scientists, sportsmen, and conservationists ever to gather in the Middle West attended a three-day conference sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute. Florida was represented by a large number of wildlife officials.

During the conference, Dr. Charles A. Dambach and Dr. Daniel L. Leedy, representing the Ohio Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, pointed out that hunting and fishing outrank all other sports in the United States from the standpoint of big business. In Ohio alone, they said, the fish and game resources of the state bring to the people a direct or indirect income of \$75,000,000 a year. They disclosed that Ohio hunters during the 1946 season bagged approximately 6,432 tons of rabbits, squirrel, and pheasant meat. If this meat had been purchased in the markets for 50-cents a pound it would have been worth approximately \$6,000,000.

At another important session, Harris G. Breth, sports commentator for Radio Station KDKA, Pittsburgh, Pa., warned that an entire re-education of the American people in conservation-thinking is essential. He delivered a stinging rebuke against certain factions in the press, politics, and sportsmen's organizations, who hold to antiquated methods of handling wildlife problems in spite of the progress made in the fields of wildlife research and management. These factions, Breth contended, are responsible for misleading the public and the widespread public apathy in matters pertaining to conservation.

The American people, Breth said, have plenty of "horse-sense," and when they know the facts, they can get results. He urged a definitely planned sales campaign carried on without sentimentality or rancor to inform the public of the present-day needs of wildlife of the country. It is time, he warned, to forget the word "conservation" and to stress the word "expansion" in referring to all renewable natural resources.

During another conference session, William Voigt, Jr., Denver, Colo., western representative of the Izaak Walton League of America, pointed out that the nation's anti-pollution forces may be expanding their energies in the battle for purer streams and tidal waters by attacking the problem on too broad a front.

Voigt warned the group of wildlife scientists, administrators and sportsmen that success in the pollution battle

depends upon unified attacks against specific problems. Because of the economic aspects involved, he recommended that attacks be centered against municipal pollution since the greatest opposition to constructive anti-pollution legislation comes from industrial groups. Treatment of industrial wastes often is so expensive as to be prohibitive, Voigt asserted, while no serious problems exist in the treatment of municipal wastes.

The Florida delegation attending the important conference included Director Ben C. Morgan, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; John F. Dequine, chief fisheries biologist; Coleman Newman, deer and turkey biologist; O. Earl Frye, chief Wildlife biologist; Lynn Hutchens, fisheries biologist; Charles Hall, maintenance engineer; David Swindell, wildlife biologist; and Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

HOLE-IN-ONE FISHING

For a number of months FLORIDA WILDLIFE has been carrying stories about proud fishermen who succeeded in landing two fish on a single cast—but it took Jay Hearin, of Tampa, to do the impossible.

With one mighty swish of his casting outfit, Jay landed 11 fish—and that's no tall story.

It seems that Jay hooked into somebody's stringer that contained eight fat perch, a bream, and two dandy bass. The stringer was unclaimed—so Jay marched homeward with his hole-in-one plunder.

ANGLERS REMINDED

Director Ben C. Morgan recently reminded all anglers that fresh water fishing will remain closed in 10 Northwest Florida counties this month and next.

The closed counties include: Jefferson, Wakulla, Franklin, Gulf, Bay, Leon, Gadsden, Jackson, Calhoun and Liberty.

At a meeting in Tallahassee last January, the Commission abolished the annual closed season throughout the State with the exception of the 10 counties. Morgan said these counties were closed to protect fish from "terrific" out-of-state angling pressure during the spawning season.



Clarence Van Auker, Fairfield, Mich., is shown displaying two feuding fish that he grabbed in his hands recently while fishing at Lake Dora. The winning bass weighed a pound and a quarter while the loser in the swallowing contest tipped the scales at a scant three-quarters of a pound.

East Hillsborough Club Awards Contest Prizes

The East Hillsborough County Fish and Game Club's first annual fishing contest was brought to a successful conclusion several weeks ago and officials have announced their intention of conducting a similar contest again next year.

Biggest fish caught by a club member was an 11 pound, 9 ounce bass, landed by M. L. Booth in Lake Hancock. He was awarded first prize in the men's division, \$15 worth of fishing tackle.

Second prize in the men's division, \$10 in fishing tackle, was copped by J. M. Branch for a 10 pound, 15 ounce bass.

First prize in the women's division went to Mrs. Louise Ford for her 4 pound, 15 ounce black bass. She was awarded fishing tackle valued at \$15.

Top place in the junior division was won by 15-year-old Howard Mathias for an eight-pound, two ounce bass he landed just three hours before the contest ended.

STICKS AND STONES

(Continued from Page 2)

FOR OUTDOOR WRITERS

Dear Sir:

The thought just occurred to me that you would add an additional interesting feature in *FLORIDA WILDLIFE* if a page were devoted each month to Florida Outdoor Writers' news—similar to the Florida Wildlife Federation pages.

Please let me know what you think of the idea.

Rube Allyn, President,
Florida Outdoor Writers—
St. Petersburg

(Your idea for an outdoor writers' page is good, however, right now we have about one-third more material than space, and our budget won't stand any magazine expansion. If we inserted an FOW page now we would have to drop some other department. —Ed.)

Ocala Biologist Joins Game Commission Staff

David Swindell, Ocala biologist, has joined the wildlife management staff of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Ben C. Morgan, commission director, announced recently.

Morgan said Swindell had been assigned to the Gulf Hammock region of West Florida, where he will make a 12-month study of deer and turkeys stocks and habitat. The commission is leasing 150,000 acres in this area to be used for public hunting.

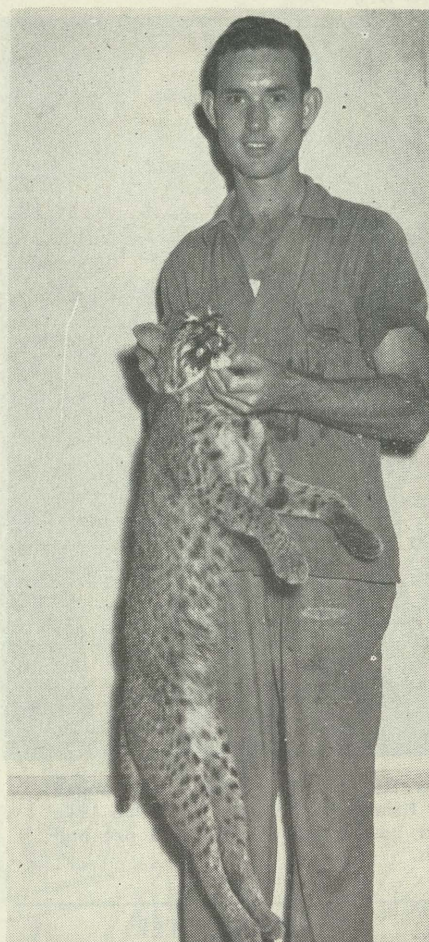
Morgan said the year investigation was the first step in a projected 25-year game management and restoration program for the area, recognized as perhaps Florida's choicest deer and turkey range.

A World War II combat veteran, Swindell is a graduate of the University of Florida.

The purple finch is not at all purple. The male is of an old-rose color and the female has the general sparrow-like appearance.

Muskrats (marsh hares in Louisiana) prefer swimming to walking.

The wolf spider, only about an inch long, often carries its young on its back until they can fend for themselves. A brood will sometimes number as many as one hundred and twenty-five.



Thompson and his "alley" cat.

WRONG KIND OF CAT

A back-yard cat fight that roused Charles Thompson, of Mount Dora, from a sound sleep in the wee small hours of the morning, almost presented him with more than he could chew!

Somewhat sleepy-eyed, Thompson jumped from bed, grabbed a ball bat, and headed through the backdoor determined to wind up the nocturnal squawling match.

Without hesitation, Charlie approached the scrapping cats and vigorously starting swinging rights and lefts with the bat. He was effective too—one cat went down for the final count and the other scampered over the back fence.

With elation, Charlie picked up his prize, took one look at it and then started gasping with shaking knees and mixed amazement.

What he saw in the subdued moonlight wasn't an expected alley tomcat, but a full-fledged, 25-pound, wildcat instead.

During the hatching season, wild turkeys make a hissing sound in imitation of a snake as a protection against dis-turb-ers seeking their eggs.

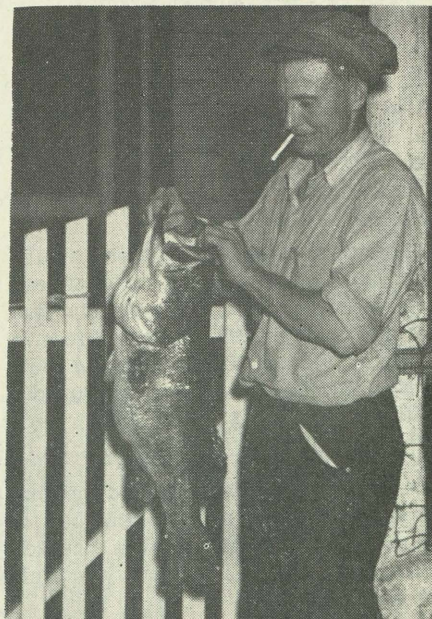
Erring Hunters Buy Nine White-tails To Avoid Jail Sentence

Nine fleet-footed, white-tailed Wisconsin deer were liberated in Levy county recently as the result of one of the state's strangest court decisions, Director Ben C. Morgan, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, has announced.

Appearing before Levy County Judge H. S. Wilson last summer, three hunters, charged with taking three deer out of season, were given their choice of going to jail for 60 days or buying nine deer to replace the ones they killed. The hunters agreed to pay for the deer at a total cost of \$810.

Judge Wilson, accompanied by members of the Levy County Wildlife Conservation Club, witnessed the enforcement of his decision when the deer, shipped from Wisconsin, were liberated by state wildlife officers in Devil's Hammock, near Bronson, Morgan said.

Just before the molting period, ducks and geese fly to bodies of water where they will be safe from land enemies. The reason is the fact that they molt their primary feathers all at one time and, for a short period, cannot fly.



No wonder Claude Davis, of Brooksville, smiled when this picture was taken. Using a Johnson Spoon with pork rind, he landed this 12-pound, 8-ounce beauty while fishing at Lake McKethan, six miles north of Brooksville.



K. W. Ellison (left) of Orlando and W. R. Walker, Leesburg display a 20-pound string of bass they took in a short span of fishing from Rogers Camp on Lake Griffin, Sunday, January 18, 1948. Largest bass weighed seven and one-half pounds while one perch weighed 2½ pounds.

Mexican Ban On Quail Halts Restocking Plan

There will be no quail restocking in Florida this year.

Ben C. Morgan, Director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, said the Mexican government had refused to permit export of some 40,000 wild quail ordered by the commission from a Texas broker. Mexico, he explained, is America's only source of bobwhite for restocking purposes.

The director said the southern republic began clamping down on quail exports last year, and that Florida was the only state in the union to receive any great number. Last spring the commission released more than 36,000 bobwhite at a cost of \$2 each.

During a six-month period, ending March 1, the Melbourne chamber of commerce issued 442 fishing licenses. During the same period last year only 163 were issued.

Frozen in a 400-pound cake of ice, a 12 pound, 7 ounce black bass was exhibited by the East Hillsborough County Fish and Game Club at the Plant City Strawberry Festival.

NO QUITTER

It takes more than a broken line to foil S. D. Stewart of Marianna, when he goes after a bass.

While fishing on Merritt Mill Pond near Marianna, Stewart hooked onto a beauty. A healthy battle ensued, and suddenly at the crucial moment the fisherman's 24-pound test line parted.

Determined not to be robbed of his catch, Stewart, clothes and all, plunged overboard and struck out after the fleeing fish. After a brief underwater skirmish he emerged, clutching his broken line—with a 9½ pound bass on the end of it.

Pending Bill Provides Way To Open St. Marks

Florida nimrods stand a chance of enjoying some lush hunting at the St. Marks Game Refuge next Fall if a bill, now pending in Congress, is passed.

The legislation, sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Service, would permit the opening of 25 per cent of the Service's refuges whenever the agency sees fit and it has been learned that a portion of the St. Marks reserve would be amongst the first to be officially opened if the bill is passed.

The new legislation would carry a boost of \$1 in the charge for Federal Duck Stamps.

Avon Park Group Backs Novel Contest

Under the direction of J. Paxton Hill, the Highlands County Fish and Game Club has inaugurated a novel contest in which big fish catchers and tall story tellers will be awarded valuable prizes. The contest opened March 8 and will close on June 1 and is restricted to bass caught in Highlands county with rod reel and artificial bait. Merchants who donated a long list of valuable prizes for the contest have been designated as the official checkers.

Contestants are required to sign an official entry blank 24 hours before making an actual entry of a catch. In addition, they must accompany their entry with a big fishing lie, since the ability to tell tall fishing stories is said to be second nature to a dyed-in-the-wool fisherman.

The lucky angler who lands the biggest bass entered in the contest will be awarded a \$40 Gulf ball-bearing reel that was donated by L. G. Bruce, First District commissioner, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Bartow.

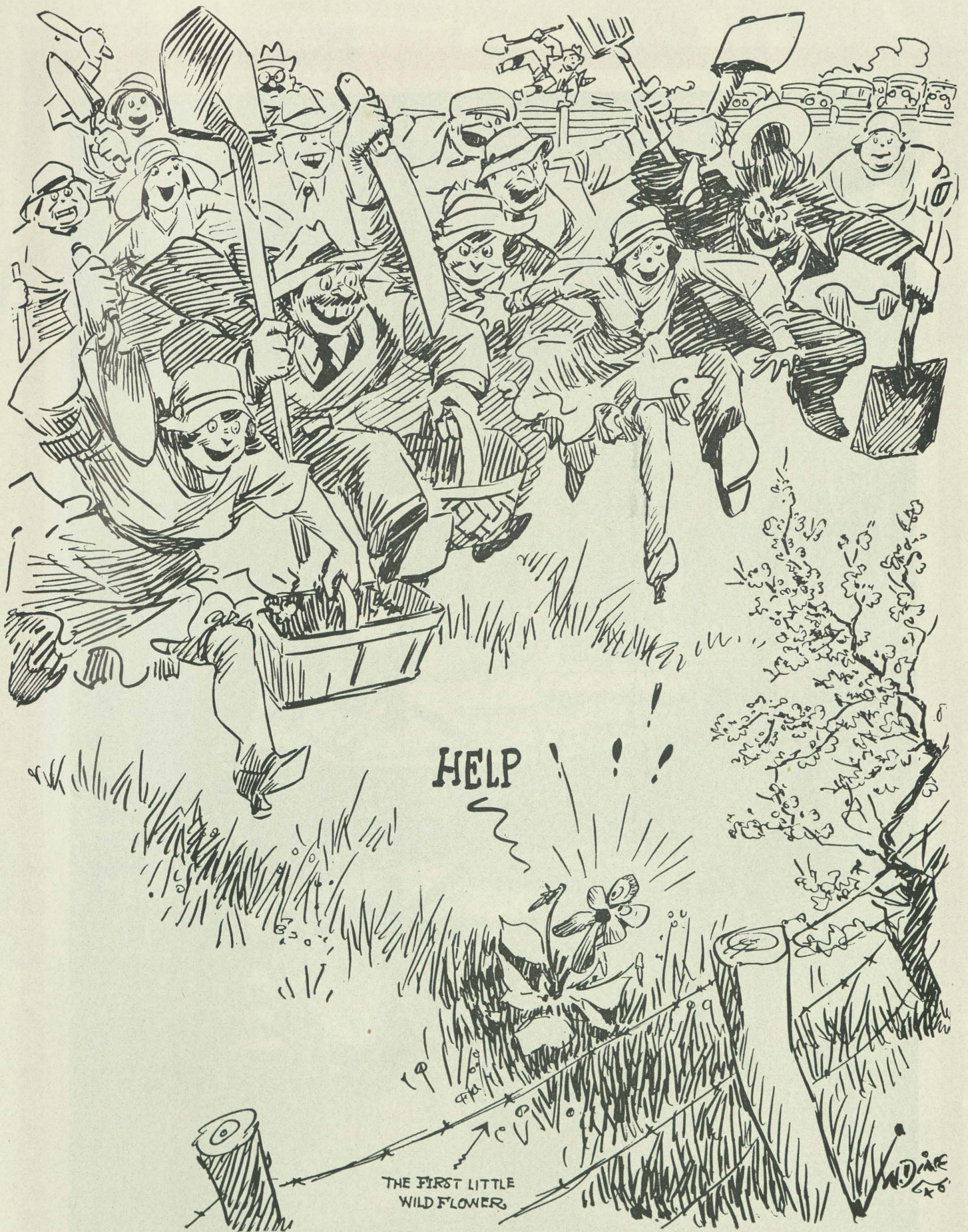
A \$30 Shakespeare five-foot Wondorod, donated by the Smith Hardware Company, Avon Park, is listed as second prize.

Third prize, a bamboo Montague casting rod and Ocean City casting reel, was donated by Joe Elder's Purol Station, Avon Park.

Fourth prize is a wooden tackle box and 12 assorted plugs, donated by Sappington's Hardware, Avon Park, and Wesley's Station, Sebring.

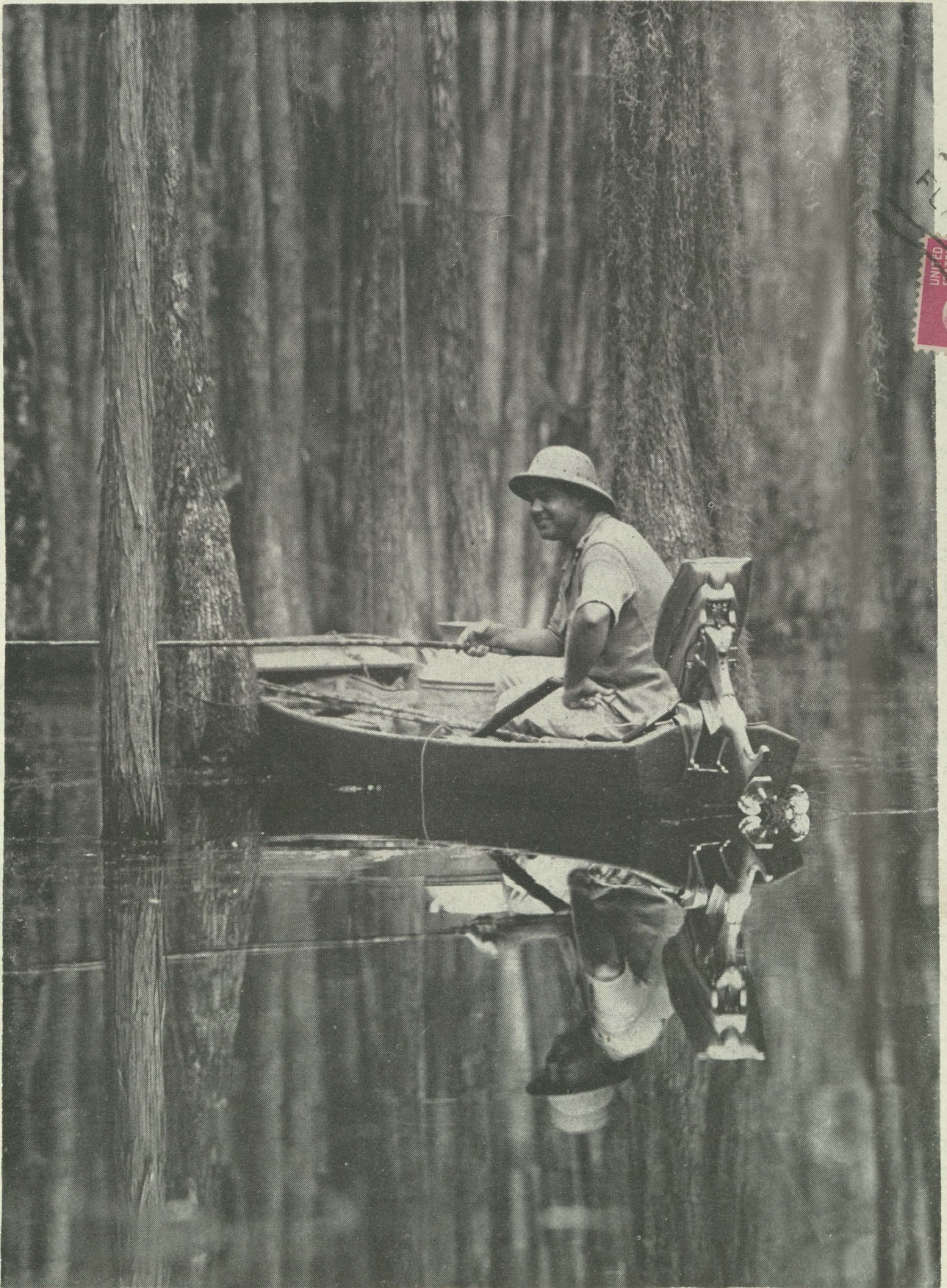


This black bass—a prize in any man's language—was caught by Mrs. Frances Lescanec, of St. Joe, while she was fishing in Pasco county. The fish tipped the scales at 13¾ pounds.



Look Out, Here Come The Nature Lovers!

The Library
State Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida



. . . REFLECTION